

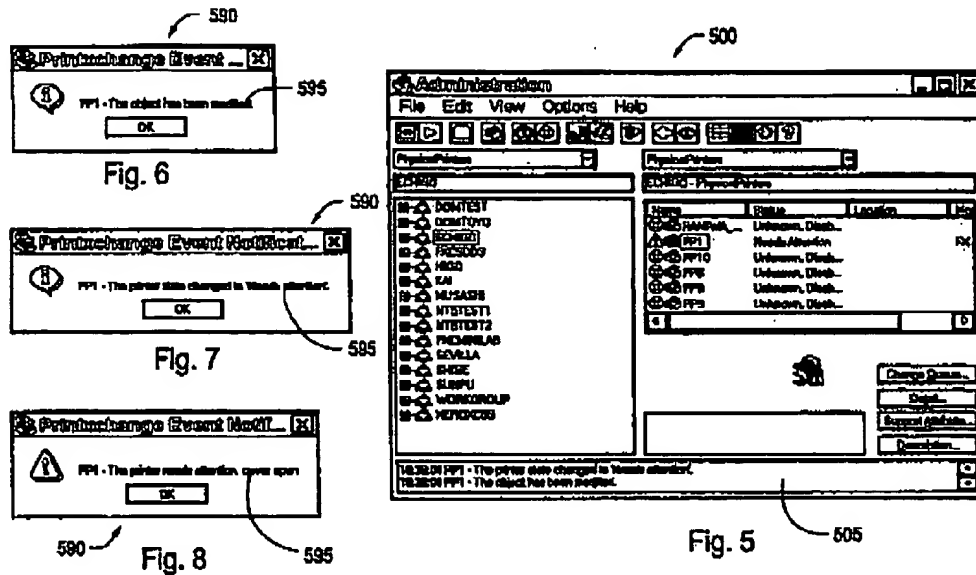
Remarks:

These remarks are responsive to the Office action dated January 4, 2006. Claims 1, 3-27 and 30-44 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-27 and 30-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Fan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,310,692) in view of Sekizawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,430,711), Silva et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0034658) and/or Yanagidaira (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,052). In view of the remarks below, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and allowance of the pending claims.

Fan et al. discloses a printer resource management system that monitors printer resources and delivers warning messages when a printer resource falls below a predetermined threshold. The system includes a graphical user interface window 500 with a text scroll box 505 (Fan et al., Figs. 5 and 9). Additionally, the system includes message windows 590 having messages 595 that inform a user that "a particular printer 250" needs attention (Fan et al., Figs. 6-8 and 10-12; col. 6, lns. 12-16). The system also monitors printer resource levels, and upon determining a deficient printer resource level, generates and transmits a notification of the deficient printer resource level based on a notification profile. Such notification profile may specify delivery of the notification by email. Figs. 5-8 of Fan et al. are reproduced below for convenience of review.

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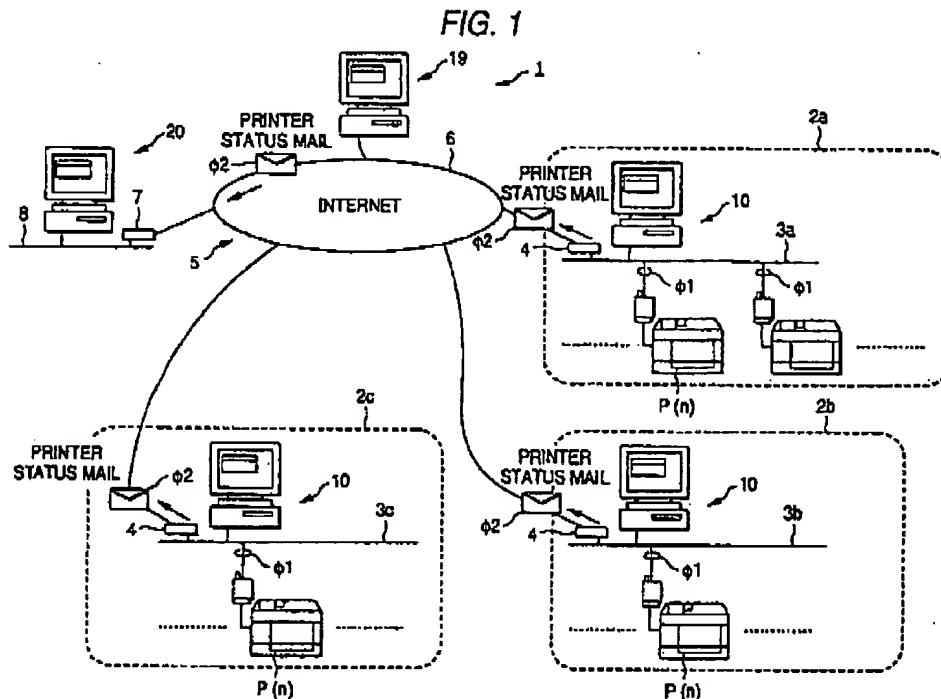


Fan et al. does not, however, disclose, teach or suggest a system or method that delivers an email consolidating the need to replenish consumable components for a select group of computer peripheral devices, as recited in independent claims 1, 14, 23 and 37. Instead, the Fan et al. system provides a notification message for a "particular printer" when that printer has a deficient printer resource level. There is no disclosure or suggestion of consolidating notifications, much less consolidating the need to replenish consumable components of two or more peripheral devices. Thus, Fan et al. fails to disclose, teach or suggest applicants' system and method as recited in independent claims 1, 14, 23 and 37.

Sekizawa discloses a system for monitoring the state of printers connected to a network. The system includes local monitoring (agent) units 10, a mail server 19 and an integrated monitoring (console) unit 20. Each of the agent units gets status information from printers P(n) associated with the agent unit and then prepares status mail having

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that information (Sekizawa, col. 19, Ins. 15-35). Each of agent units 10 then sends the status mail to the mail server via the Internet. At the proper time, the console unit reads the status mail stored in the mail server. Fig. 1 of Sekizawa is reproduced below for convenience of review.



Sekizawa does not, however, disclose, teach or suggest a system or method that delivers an email consolidating the need to replenish consumable components for a select group of computer peripheral devices, as recited in independent claims 1, 14, 23 and 37. Instead, the Sekizawa system converts printer status information into one piece of electronic mail. There is no disclosure or suggestion of consolidating any needs of the computer peripheral devices, much less consolidating the need to replenish consumable components of two or more peripheral devices. Thus, Sekizawa fails to

disclose, teach or suggest applicants' system as recited in independent claims 1, 14, 23 and 37.

In the Office action, the Examiner stated that Sekizawa teaches "sending an email consolidating the needs to replenish or maintain two or more devices in need." However, Sekizawa does not contain that teaching. At best, Sekizawa teaches sending an email consolidating status information of printers associated with the particular agent unit.

Additionally, no suggestion or motivation is disclosed in either Fan et al. or Sekizawa to combine the references. In fact, Fan et al. teaches away from such a combination. As discussed above, the system in Fan et al. provides message windows that notify a user of the needs of a single printer. Modifying the system in Fan et al. to include the consolidation features of the Sekizawa system would be completely inconsistent with the teachings in Fan et al.

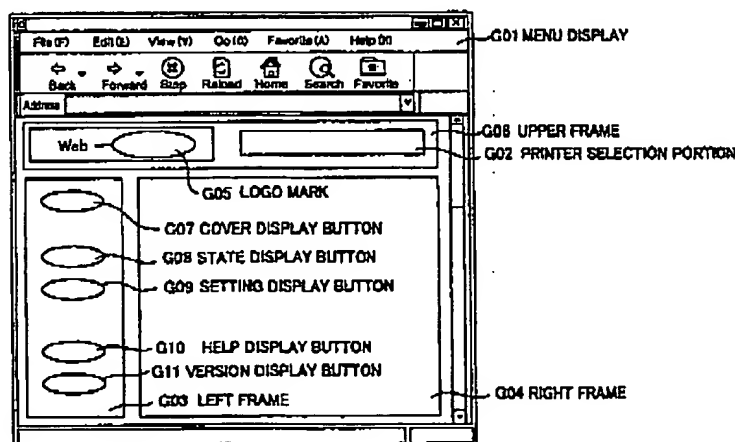
Moreover, even if the improper combination of Fan et al. and Sekizawa is made, that combination does not disclose a system that delivers an email consolidating the need to replenish consumable components for a select group of computer peripheral devices, as recited in the independent claims. Instead, the improper combination of Fan et al. and Sekizawa would provide a system that consolidates status information from network printers (via status mail) and sends message windows regarding the needs of each printer. Therefore, Sekizawa, either alone or in combination with Fan et al., fails to disclose, teach or suggest applicants' system and method as recited in independent claims 1, 14, 23 and 37.

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Silva et al. discloses an executable shopping list that enables a user browsing an affiliate Web site's Web page to order a bundle of multiple items offered for sale. Silva et al. does not, however, disclose, teach or suggest a system or method that identifies the need to replenish a consumable component for a plurality of computer peripheral devices, much less a system that delivers a notification consolidating the need to replenish consumable components for a select group of plurality of computer peripheral devices, as recited in the independent claims. Thus, Silva et al. alone, or in combination with Fan et al. and/or Sekizawa, fails to disclose, teach or suggest applicants' system and method as recited in independent claims 1, 14, 23 and 37.

Yanagidaira discloses a printer controller that controls the shared printer of a network to which clients are connected. The printer controller includes a state-monitoring unit that obtains the operating state of a printer (usually paper-empty, paper-jam or power off). The operating states are displayed on a web browser that operates on a client display window of the printer controller, as depicted below:

Fig.8



Yanagidaira does not, however, disclose, teach or suggest a system or method that delivers a notification consolidating the need to replenish consumable components for a select group of computer peripheral devices, as recited in independent claims 1, 14, 23 and 37. Instead, the Yanagidaira system provides a web browser to display the operating states of all the shared printers. Thus, Yanagidaira alone, or in combination with Fan et al., Sekizawa and/or Silva et al., fails to disclose, teach or suggest applicants' system and method as recited in independent claims 1, 14, 23 and 37.

For at least the above reasons, the rejections of claims 1, 14, 23 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be withdrawn. Claims 3-13, 15-22, 24-27, 30-36 and 38-44 depend from independent claims 1, 14, 23 and 37, and thus are allowable for at least the same reasons as those independent claims.

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Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

KOLISCH HARTWELL, P.C.



Walter W. Kamstein
Registration No. 35,565
520 S.W. Yamhill Street, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 224-6655
Facsimile: (503) 295-6679
Attorney for Applicants

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner B. Bruckart, Group Art Unit 2155, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on April 4, 2006.



Christie A. Doolittle

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